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INFO RUEHZS/ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHEAST ASIAN NATIONS IMMEDIATE  
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C O N F I D E N T I A L MANILA 001567

SIPDIS

STATE FOR IO/RHS COLLEEN NEVILLE  
USUN FOR BRIAN YOUNG

E.O. 12958: DECL: 07/23/2019  
TAGS: [PGOV](#) [PHUM](#) [PREL](#) [RP](#)  
SUBJECT: UPDATE ON DEMARCHE REQUEST SUPPORTING NGO  
PARTICIPATION AT THE UN

REF: A. MANILA 1419 (DEMARCHE DELIVERED - SUPPORTING NGO  
INVOLVEMENT AT THE UNITED NATIONS)  
[1](#)B. STATE 68551 (DEMARCHE REQUEST: SUPPORTING NGO  
INVOLVEMENT AT THE UNITED NATIONS)

Classified By: Acting Political Counselor Philip A. Thompson, Reasons 1  
.4 (b) and (d).

[1](#)1. (C) In a follow-up to reftel A, post inquired July 24 of  
DFA's Office of United Nations and International  
Organizations (UNIO) Director Leah Ruiz if the Philippine  
government had decided whether to support ECOSOC consultative  
status for the Democracy Coalition Project, and deferral back  
to the NGO Committee for the Dynamic Christian World Mission  
Foundation. Director Ruiz said the DFA had already  
transmitted instructions to its representative in Geneva to  
"go with the consensus." When emboff told the Director that  
reports from Geneva indicate that a clear consensus might not  
exist because of intense Chinese lobbying against the NGOs,  
she seemed genuinely surprised, and revealed that  
instructions to the Philippine representative in Geneva  
included a requirement to report back to Manila any "sharp  
divisions" on the issue. Director Ruiz said she has received  
no feedback from Geneva, and stated she would try to find out  
more about the situation there.

[1](#)2. (C) Emboff reiterated reftel B points and underscored the  
importance the U.S. places on Philippine support for the  
involvement of the NGOs at the United Nations. Director Ruiz  
appeared to be uneasy with the prospect of the Philippines  
being placed in a position where its vote could make a  
difference in a dispute between China and the United States,  
and she did not indicate how the Philippines would vote if no  
consensus on the NGOs emerges at ECOSOC. Post will continue  
to engage with DFA to press for a positive outcome.  
KENNEY